

March 7, 1984

LB 761

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, now with regard to the word "normal childbirth", that as I understand it according to standards that are set up within the legal profession, they have means of classifying childbirth and it has been determined that approximately 75 percent of childbirth is in the normal classification, is that correct?

SENATOR MARSH: That is approximately correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, so that word "normal" would follow those guidelines?

SENATOR MARSH: It would follow the guidelines set out by the National Nurse Midwifery certification. It would also follow the guidelines of the practice agreement so that there are specific guidelines. This Legislature is not trying to write in medical terminology. That belongs in the Board of Nursing and in the Board of Examiners expertise area. But it does have to...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, you would not expect the Board of Examiners to interpret the word "normal" in some way that was radically different from the national guidelines of either the Association of Midwifery or the National Obstetrics Association?

SENATOR MARSH: The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists said "Yes, that is correct." As a matter of fact I have just returned from the Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C. on Sunday and Monday of this week where we met with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and this is in their description a very conservative bill but one that meets all of their guidelines.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, Senator Marsh, further down on page 4, there is some language that only allows the certified nurse midwife to perform her functions under the supervision of the licensed practitioner, now the words "under the supervision of", could we have...could a childbirth be handled in this manner, could the birth take place in a